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VIDEO JACK™

GUEST STARRING IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER:

STEPHEN DeSTEFANO

KEITH GIFFEN

MICHAEL GILBERT

FRED HEMBECK

DAVE HUNT

KEVIN MacQUIRE

JOSE MARZAN

TRINA ROBBINS

WALT SIMONSON

JIM STARLIN

BILL WRAY

DAVE HUNT

A TOKER THE KID SCAN

EPIC COMICS

creator/plot/script CARY BATES
creator/plot KEITH GIFFEN
colorist JOHN WELLINGTON
editor MARGARET CLARK
letterer JACK MORELLI
Cover Art by Dave Hunt
editor in chief ARCHIE GOODWIN

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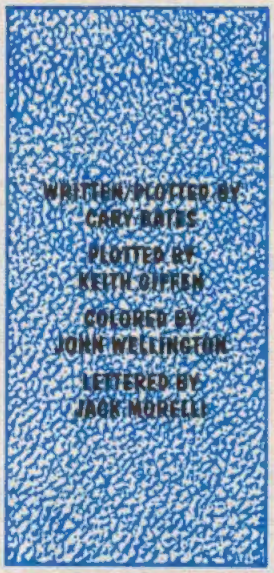
VIDEO
JACK


WRITTEN/PLOTTED BY
CARY BATES
PLOTTED BY
KEITH GIFFEN
COLORED BY
JOHN WELLINGTON
LETTERED BY
JACK MORELLI

"THIS IS YOUR LIFE
& DEATH"
BY
STEPHEN DESTEFANO
&
DAVE HUNT

"SPACE TOON"
BY
MICHAEL GILBERT

"SGT. SITCOM"
BY
FRED HEMBECK
&
DAVE HUNT

"VIDZILLA"
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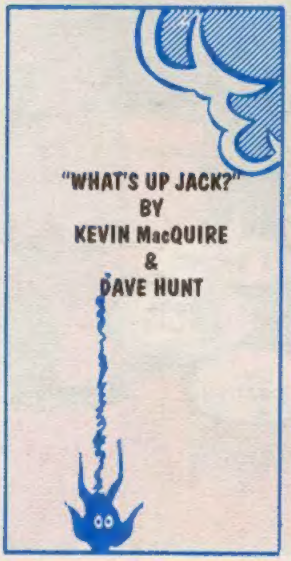
"WHAT'S UP JACK?"
BY
KEVIN MacQUIRE
&
DAVE HUNT

"JACK THE HACKER"
BY
BILL WRAY
DAMON?

"DA-MON THE DEFEATED"
BY
KEITH GIFFEN
&
DAVE HUNT

"WELCOME BACK, JACK"
BY
STEPHEN DESTEFANO
&
DAVE HUNT

GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

THIS IS YOUR CONGENIAL HOST "POP" CULTURE!

WELCOMING YOU TO ANOTHER EDITION OF...

...THIS IS YOUR LIFE OR DEATH!

JACK SWIFT..

I KNOW...

THIS IS MY LIFE...

OR DEATH.

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SOME OF YOUR NEAREST AND DEAREST HAVE COME A LONG WAY TO BE WITH US HERE TONIGHT, JACK.
IF THIS CHARACTER IS A REAL M.C., THEN I'M DR. RUTH!
"POP" CULTURE LOOKS MORE LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A BAD LSD TRIP!
I ONLY WISH THIS WAS AN HALLUCINATION!
LISTEN CLOSELY, JACK--
--AND SEE IF YOU CAN IDENTIFY THIS VERY SPECIAL SOMEONE...
WOOF WOOF
?!?
WOOF WOOF?
I DON'T KNOW ANYBODY NAMED WOOF-WOOF!
THAT WAS MY IMPRESSION OF A DOG, BONEHEAD!
KOJAK?
IS THAT YOU, BOY?
PUNT
WHO ELSE WERE YOU EXPECTING--
--MAYBE BENJI?

SORRY I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TIME FOR YOU LATELY, BOY.
FIGHTING WITH DAMON IN THESE VIDEO-REALMS HAS SORT OF KEPT ME... PREOCCUPIED!
GRRRRRR
DON'T EVEN MENTION THAT NAME!
WHO DO YOU THINK GAVE ME THE BOOT?
YOU MEAN... DAMON'S BEHIND THAT--
AND NOW, JACK--
LET'S GIVE ANOTHER LISTEN, SHALL WE?
JACK SWIFT--
--HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU--
--THAT SLIMEBAG'S NAME IS NOT TO BE MENTIONED IN THIS HOUSE!
IT--IT'S MOM!
TALKING ABOUT DAD AGAIN!
GIVE THAT LAD A GOLD STAR!
SURE, WE'VE ALL SEEN MRS. SWIFT GO THROUGH A LOT OF CHANGES OVER THE LAST FEW VIDEO-REALMS...
...BUT WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE...
...TO THOSE OF US WHO KNOW AND LOVE HER, SHE'LL ALWAYS BE JUST PLAIN OL' "MOM"!
OUTTA MY FACE BITCH!
MOM, ARE YOU OKAY?
I TOLD YOU -hiccup- THAT BOY DAMON WAS JUST NO GOOD!
KEPT-KEPT-hiccup-POURING DRINKS FOR ME!
WOULDN'T -hiccup- LET ME STOP!
I'LL KILL HIM!
NOT JUST YET JACK!
LISTEN!
MMFF MMFF

DON'T **RECOGNIZE** THE MUFFLED PLEAS FOR **HELP**, Eh?

LET'S **ALL** GIVE A ROUSING WELCOME TO OUR **NEXT** SURPRISE GUEST, SHALL WE?

MMFFF! MMMFF!!

?!? **DOREEN**?!

THAT'S RIGHT, JACK-- MISS **DOREEN TAGGERT**--

--THE GIRL OF YOUR VIDEO-DREAMS!

DON'T JUST **STAND** THERE, JACK--

UNDO ME!

T:K-T:K-T:K

Uh-oh, WHAT'S THAT **TICKING** SOUND!?

DON'T **TELL** ME!

DAMON PUT A **BOMB** UNDER THE COT!

I TOLD YOU NOT TO **TELL** ME!!

TIC TIC TIC TIC

A **BOMB** INDEED, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

RIGGED TO **GO OFF** IF JACK MAKES THE SLIGHTEST ATTEMPT TO SET HIS GIRL FRIEND FREE!

ENOUGH!

I CAN'T TAKE ANY **MORE** OF THIS!!

THAT'S A **CUE** IF I EVER HEARD ONE!

GREETINGS, JACKSON!

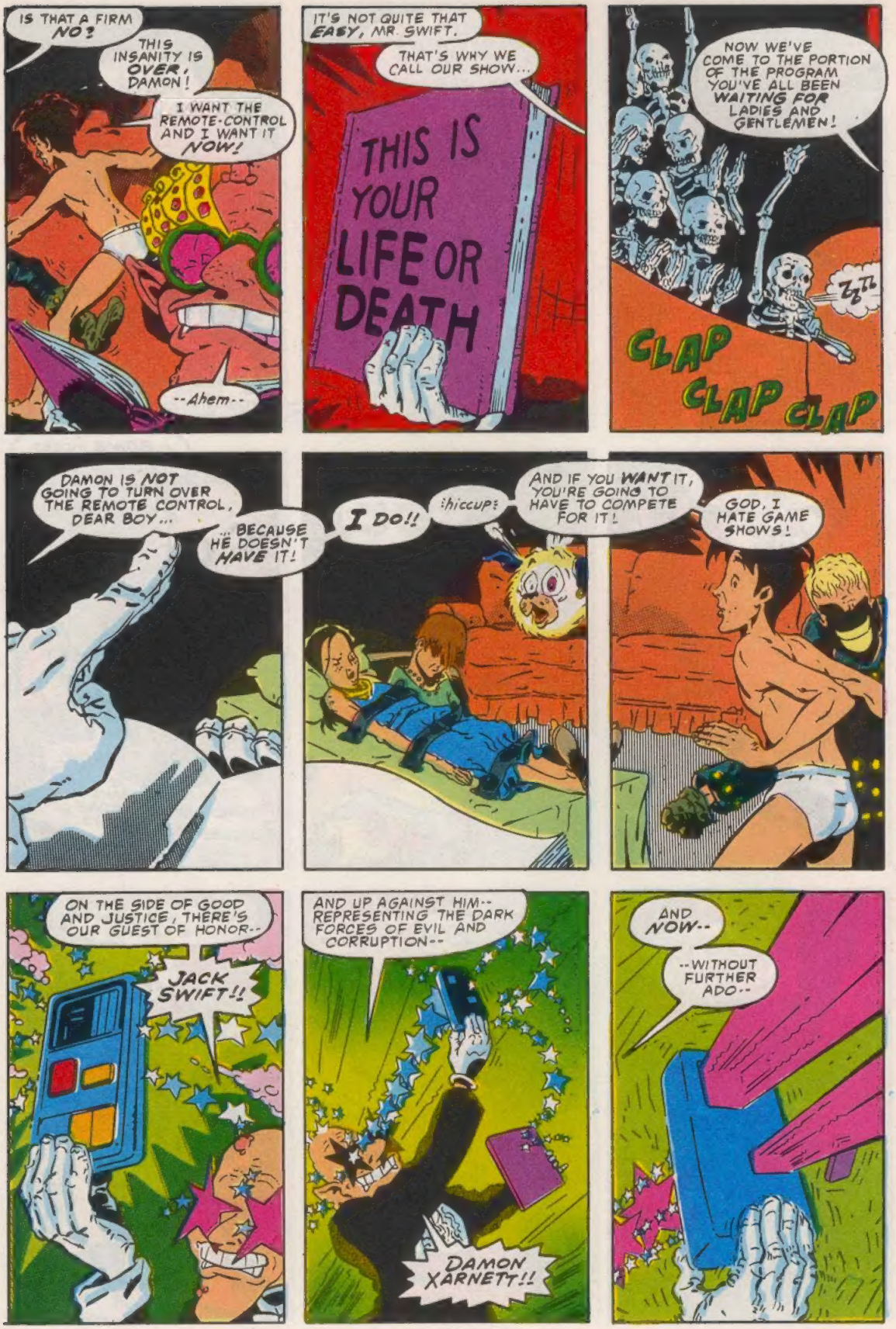
HOW'S THE WORLD BEEN TREATING YOU?

ARGH!

I **HATE** YOU!!

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? HATING'S BAD FOR THE HATER!

CAN'T WE BE **FRIENDS**?


IS THAT A FIRM NO?
THIS INSANITY IS OVER, DAMON!
I WANT THE REMOTE-CONTROL AND I WANT IT NOW!
--Ahem--
IT'S NOT QUITE THAT EASY, MR. SWIFT.
THAT'S WHY WE CALL OUR SHOW...
THIS IS YOUR LIFE OR DEATH
NOW WE'VE COME TO THE PORTION OF THE PROGRAM YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
ZZZ
CLAP CLAP CLAP
DAMON IS NOT GOING TO TURN OVER THE REMOTE CONTROL, DEAR BOY...
... BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE IT!
I DO!!
:hiccup:
AND IF YOU WANT IT, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COMPETE FOR IT!
GOD, I HATE GAME SHOWS!
ON THE SIDE OF GOOD AND JUSTICE, THERE'S OUR GUEST OF HONOR--
JACK SWIFT!!
AND UP AGAINST HIM-- REPRESENTING THE DARK FORCES OF EVIL AND CORRUPTION--
DAMON XARNETT!!
AND NOW--
--WITHOUT FURTHER ADO--

LET THE VIDEO-FIGHTS BEGIN!
OH, LOVELY. THIS IS JUST WONDER-FUL!
:hiccup:
JACK..!
MAY THE BEST MAN WIN!
I WAS AFRAID HE WAS GONNA SAY THAT!
:hiccup:
POOR JACK!
ONE-ON-ONE WITH DAMON?
HE DOESN'T HAVE A PRAYER!

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NOT THAT LEVER!
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE USING YOUR WEIGHT-REDUCING MACHINE!
S-S-S-SORRY, CAP'N.
SPOCK, JOIN ME IN THE TURBO-LIFT!
I TOLD YOU--
I AM NOT SPOCK!!
SORRY
AND THIS IS NOT THE TURBO-LIFT!
I...THINK...YOU MAY BE RIGHT!
STOP STALLING, JACKSON!
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A FIGHT TO THE DEATH, REMEMBER?
OH, RIGHT
BUT EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK...THERE ARE JUST SO MANY DISTRACTIONS!
DOWN, BOY!
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THOSE STARFLEET NURSES!
NO, I DON'T!
BUT I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO FIND OUT!
SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE STARSHIP TROUPER!
JUST DOING MY DUTY, DAMON. AFTER ALL, ISN'T IT OUR MISSION TO--
I KNOW... BOLDLY GO WHERE NO MAN HAS GONE BEFORE!
YEEEEEE
KILLER TRIBBLES!!
I THOUGHT THEY WERE S'POSED TO BE CUTE AND CUDDLY??!
THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH TRIBBLES, SWIFT--
--THEY'LL IMITATE ANYONE! EVEN ME!
YOU'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD, JACK!
KA-POW
CLICK
MICHAEL J. Gilbert

TAKE THAT, LUNKHEAD!
SHEESH! LOOK AROUND, JACKSON!
WHAT'D WE DO, PASS THROUGH A TIME WARP?
IT'S THOSE TWO ROOKIES, SARGE!
THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN!
BOYS, BOYS!
LET ME REPHRASE THAT--
ATTENNNN-HUT!!
THAT'S BETTER!
PRIVATE SWIFT. YOU ARE BEING TRAINED TO FIGHT THE ENEMY...
...NOT OUR FRIEND PRIVATE XARNETT!
BUT SARGE, DAMON XARNETT IS THE ENEMY--
SHUDDUP!
YOU BOYS GOT A BEEF, WE'LL SETTLE IT THE AMERICAN WAY--
MMFFF
--WITH A CONTEST!
A CONTEST?
A CONTEST?
A CONTEST!
I'M TALKING FREE ENTERPRISE HERE, MEN!
THAT'S WHY WAGERING WILL BE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED!
IT'S TIME TO SEPERATE THE MEN FROM THE BOYS!
McKENZIE, CLEAR THE MESS HALL!
AYE, AYE, SARGE!

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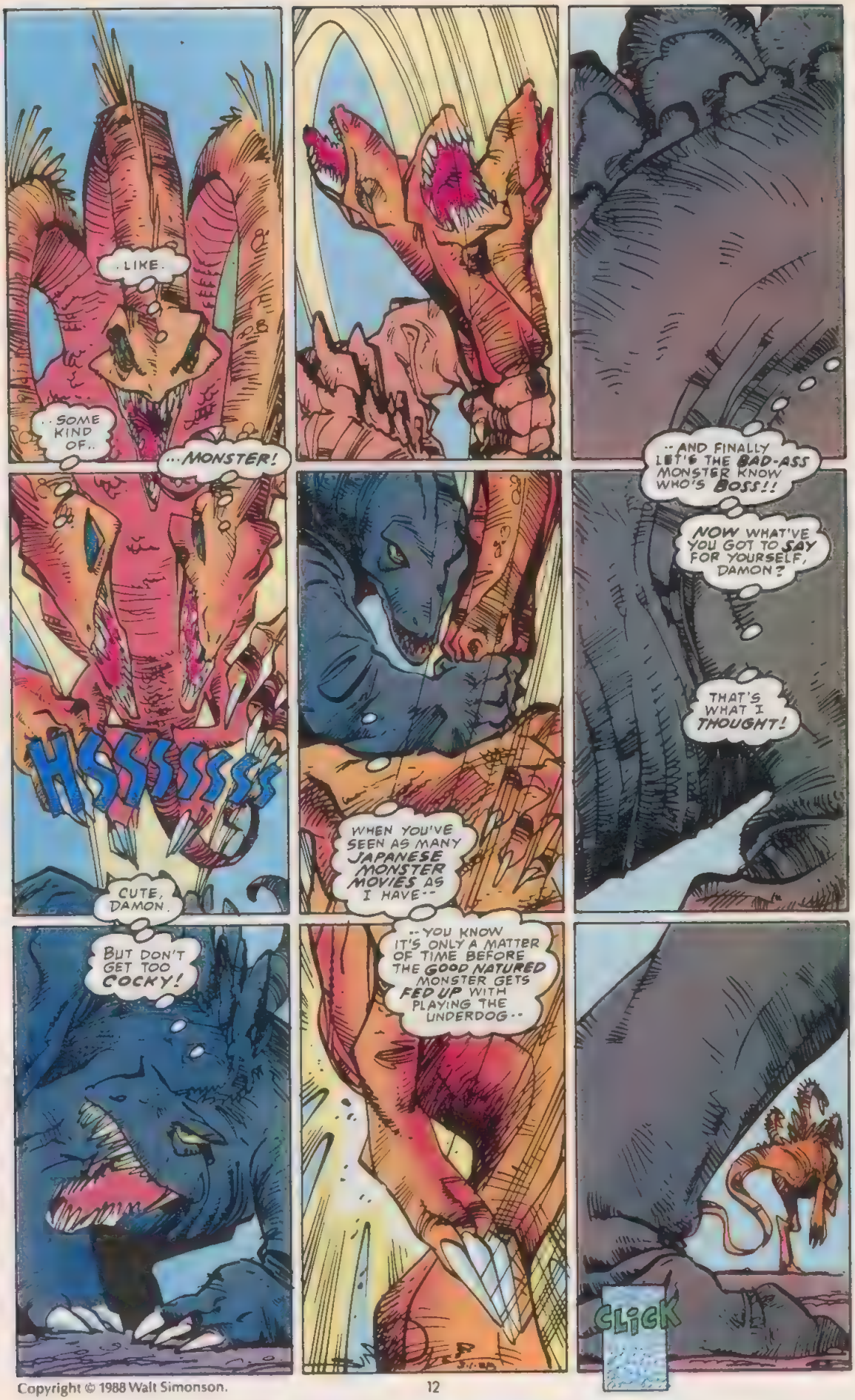
ON YOUR MARKS--
--GET SET--
PEEL!!
WILLYA LOOKIT 'EM GO!!
AT THIS RATE WE'RE GONNA BE OUT OF POTATOES IN NO TIME, SARGE!
YOU HEARD THE MAN! MORE SPUDS, McKENZIE!
...THAT'S 2 TO 1 ON PRIVATE XARNETT AND 5 TO 1 ON PRIVATE SWIFT!
DON'T FORGET, MEN-- I'M ALSO TAKING SIDE BETS ON THE NUMBER OF CUTS PER HAND PER MINUTE OF PEELING!
Ahem!
C-C-COLONEL SIR! SO GLAD YOU COULD BE HERE FOR OUR "PATRIOTISM THROUGH POTATOES" EXERCISE!
BUNK, SARGEANT!
I WARNED YOU WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I CAUGHT YOU GAMBLING AGAIN!
YES SIR, SIR!
OH, GEEZ, DAMON! HOW COULD YOU??
ME?! HOW COULD I WHAT??
BAM
I SHOULD HAVE DONE THAT YEARS AGO!
DAMON, IT WAS YOUR EVIL INFLUENCE THAT MADE THIS HAPPEN!
YOU OUGHTA HEAR YOURSELF BELLY-ACHING, JACKSON!
YOU MAKE ME SOUND--
CLIK



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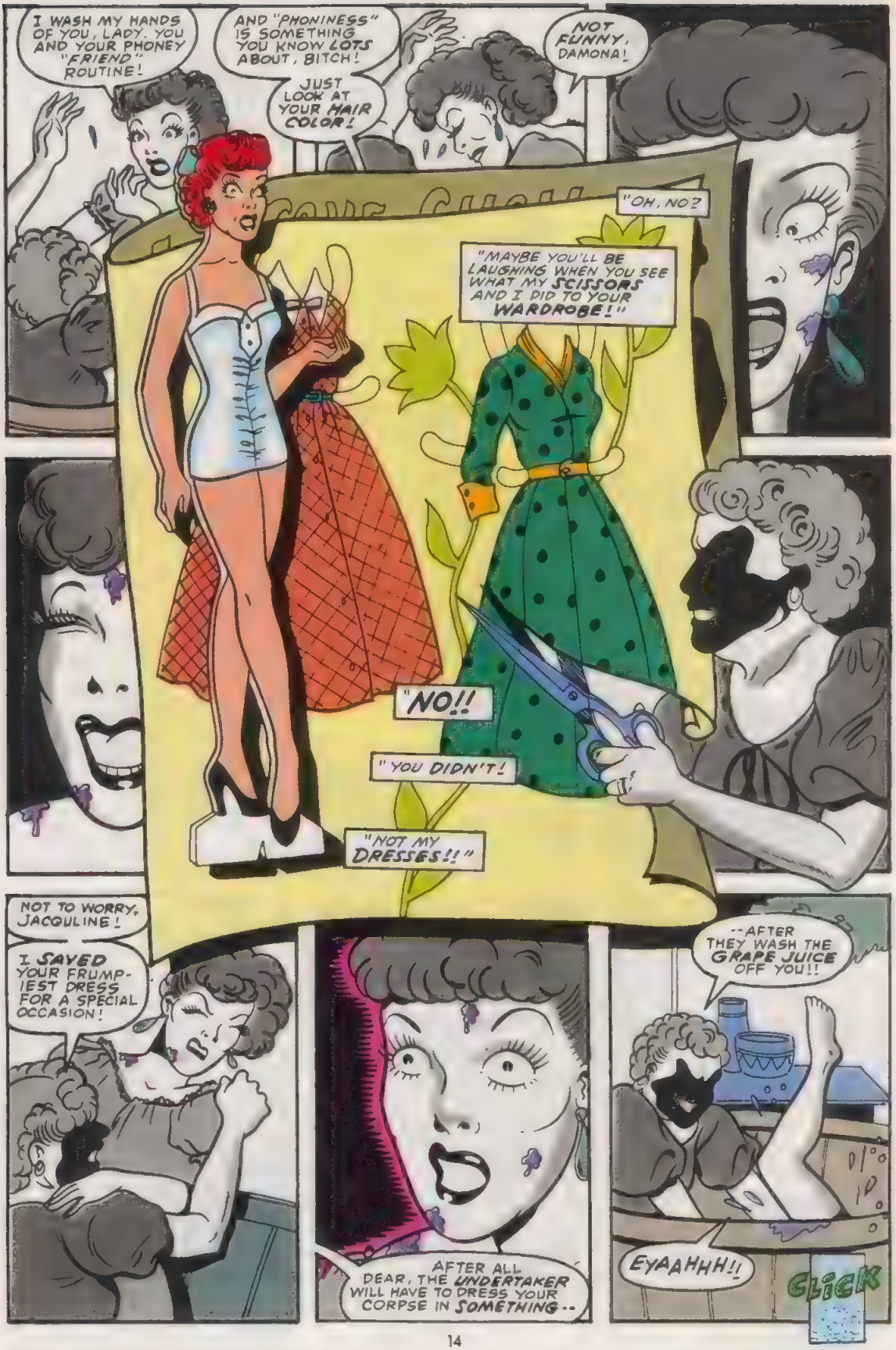
I WASH MY HANDS OF YOU, LADY. YOU AND YOUR PHONEY "FRIEND" ROUTINE!
AND "PHONINESS" IS SOMETHING YOU KNOW LOTS ABOUT, BITCH!
JUST LOOK AT YOUR HAIR COLOR!
NOT FUNNY, DAMONA!
"OH, NO?
"MAYBE YOU'LL BE LAUGHING WHEN YOU SEE WHAT MY SCISSORS AND I DID TO YOUR WARDROBE!"
"NO!!
"YOU DIDN'T!
"NOT MY DRESSES!!"
NOT TO WORRY, JACQULINE!
I SAVED YOUR FRUMPIEST DRESS FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION!
AFTER ALL DEAR, THE UNDERTAKER WILL HAVE TO DRESS YOUR CORPSE IN SOMETHING--
--AFTER THEY WASH THE GRAPE JUICE OFF YOU!!
EYAAHHH!!
CLICK

NOW WHO'S FUNERAL IS IT, XARNETT?

YOURS, YOU LILY-LIVERED SINGING COWARD!

YOURS!

FORGET THE GUITAR, FOOL!

YOU'VE PLUM PLAYED YOUR LAST TUNE!

NOT QUITE--

NOW I HAVE!

KA-TOWN

THWOK

GOOD BOY, LIGHTNING!

YOU'RE THE BEST HORSE ANY SINGING COWBOY COULD ASK FOR!

TELL YOU WHAT, JACK-SON--

I'LL MAKE SURE THEY BURY THE HORSE NEXT TO YOU ON BOOT HILL!

CLICK

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GUESS WHO'S BACK, JACK?
BOING
AND I'M GONNA RIP YOUR--
UH-OH
ZIIIT
SLAM
DON'T SAY IT, JACK-SON...
DON'T SAY WHAT?
GURGH!
CLICK

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WAAA
POP!
POP
YOUR CHAINSAW AGAINST MY HATCHET!
WHAAAA
IS THAT THE BASIC DIST HERE?
ROOAARRRRR
GUESS SO!
CHOP!
DAMON?
IT'S JUST AN ARM--
I HAVE ANOTHER!
THE TRUTH, JACKSON!
RROOWW
NOW THAT YOU'VE TRIED IT--
YOU'RE TURNED ON BY THE SCENT OF BLOOD!
YOU'RE JUST LIKE ME!
SLASH!
ME-- JUST LIKE YOU, XARNETT?
NOT A CHANCE!
AND BY THE WAY--
--THAT WAS YOUR LEG!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
HOP! HOP!
I KNOW--
YOU HAVE ANOTHER!
ROOAARRR
NOW, JACKSON--
--YOU WANNA MAKE ANY BETS WHO ENDS UP WITH THE FINAL CUT?!
ROOOAR
CHOP!
RRRAAR
SLICE!
SPUTTER
POP! POP!
IF THE CHANNEL CHANGES AGAIN--
--YOU'RE DEAD SWIFT.
YOU HEAR ME? YOU RE--
CLICK
Bill Wray

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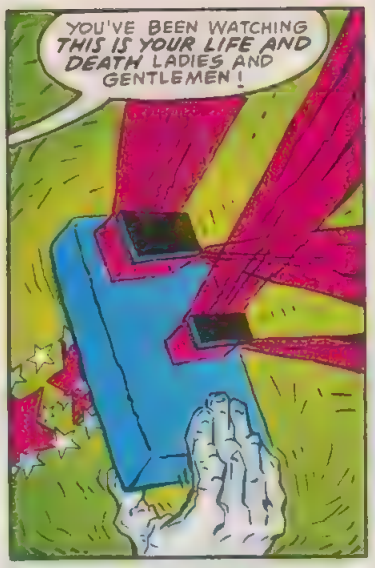
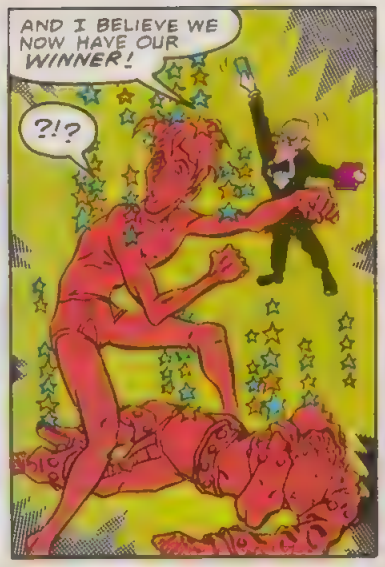
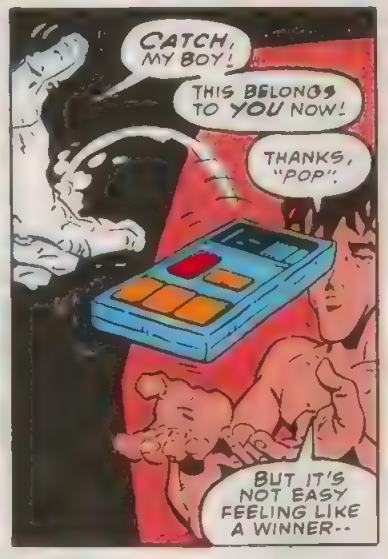
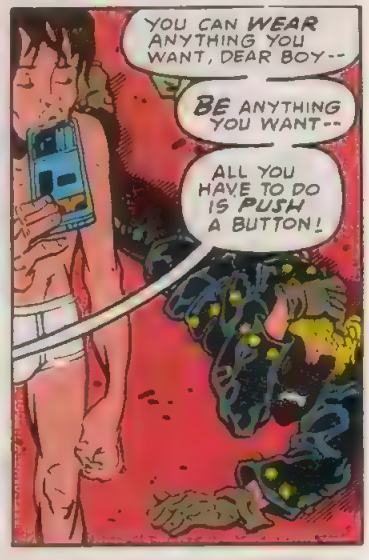
I AM DA-MON!
YOU ARE DEAD!
S-SORRY, DAMON.
NICE TRY--
-- BUT THIS GIANT ROBOT ROUTINE IS ONE BIG BLUFF.
YOU AND I BOTH KNOW YOU BOUGHT THE FARM IN THAT LAST VIDEO WORLD!
BUT AS USUAL...
... YOU'RE JUST BEING A SORE LOSER!
I'M THE WINNER HERE!
I AM DA-MON!
YOU ARE DEAD!
I-I A-AM D-DA-M-MON!
Y-YOU A-ARE D-D-DEAD!
RUMBLLLE
I'M THE WINNER HERE!
CLICK
I'M THE WINNER HERE!!









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PASS.

MY CHANNEL-HOPPING DAYS ARE BEHIND ME, 'POP".

I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME...

...I GOT BACK TO HICKORY HAVEN!

THE GOOD OLD FASHIONED REALITY VERSION!

I GUESS IT REALLY IS LIKE DOROTHY SAID IN THE WIZARD OF OZ--

"THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE--"

"HOME", JACKSON?

YOU AND YOUR DUMB MOVIE LINES..!

DAMON!

YOU'RE ALIVE!

YEAH...I GUESS... YOU COULD SAY THAT.

IF YOU CALL THIS... LIVING.

EVERYTHING IN MY HEAD IS FUZZY, JACKSON...

ONLY TWO THINGS I KNOW FOR SURE...

I FEEL LIKE CRAP!

AND I'M SORRY!

SORRY... ER... FOR WHAT?

LOOK, I KNOW WHEREVER WE WERE, WHATEVER WE DID...

...I WAS A ROYAL PAIN IN THE BUTT-- RIGHT?

YOU CAN TELL ME!

ON SECOND THOUGHT ...DON'T

I'M NOT UP FOR HEARING ABOUT WHAT A LOUSE I WAS JUST NOW.

MAYBE... LATER...

SURE, DAMON. LATER...

WELCOME TO HICKORY HAVEN 1886-1986 CENNTENNIAL

I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT

ONE OF THESE DAYS.

WELCOME TO HICKORY HAVEN 1886-1986 CENNTENNIAL

EVERYTHING'S GONNA WORK OUT. YOU'LL SEE.
THERE'S UH... JUST ONE THING.
ABOUT YOUR UNCLE..
UNCLE ZACH KICKED THE BUCKET.
THAT MUCH I DO REMEMBER!
IT'S NOT LIKE HE AND I WERE REAL CLOSE OR ANYTHING.
BUT Y'KNOW...
A PART OF ME IS STILL GONNA MISS THAT OLD WACKADOO...
DAMON, I COULD HANG AROUND AWHILE--
NAH.
I NEED TO SORT SOME THINGS OUT.
ALONE, Y'KNOW?
ALONE
OKAY, PAL. I UNDERSTAND.
SHEESH. SOME BAD-ASS YOU ARE SWIFT.
A FEW VIDEO-REALMS AGO YOU WERE FIGHTING THE GUY FOR YOUR LIFE--
--AND NOW YOU CAN'T HELP ROOTING FOR HIM!
IF HE DOES MANAGE TO SNAP OUT OF THIS FUNK--
LCOME
KORY
AVEN
1986
NNIAL
--ODDS ARE HE'LL END UP IRRESPONSIBLE, UNRELIABLE, AND UNDEPENDABLE.
IN OTHER WORDS--
--HE'LL BE BACK TO HIS OLD SELF AGAIN!
THE DAMON XARNETT I COULD ALWAYS COUNT ON TO LET ME DOWN!
I'D LIKE TO THINK WE ZAPPED BACK TO REALITY JUST IN TIME!
HOPEFULLY, DAMON LEFT HIS DISPICABLE "DARK SIDES" STRANDED IN THE VIDEO-REALMS WE LEFT BEHIND.
WHICH REMINDS ME.
FROM NOW ON--
--THIS REMOTE-CONTROL IS IN THE OFF POSITION!
PERMANENTLY!

PJ'S BAR GRILL
JACK, MY BOY.
TALK TO YOUR MOM YET?
VOLTAGE HAIR STYLIST
UH, MY MOM?
YOU KNOW,... ABOUT THE 27" MTS STEREO T.V.?
MAPLE T.V. 27" STEREO
OH, RIGHT!
KNOW WHAT, MR. MAPLE--
..I CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT THE T.V.
AND MOM, SHE'S--
MOM!
OH CRIPES! HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN GONE?
BY NOW SHE MUST BE WORRIED SICK!
I WAS RIGHT! IT IS HIM!
:SIGH: MY HERO.
WHAT A HUNK!
WAITAMINNUT!
WHAT'S COME OVER YOU, DOREEN?
WHAT DO YOU SEE IN A COUCH POTATO LIKE JACK SWIFT?
WHAT IS IT ABOUT HIM THAT MAKES YOU HOT?
KOJAK-- HE MUST BE JUST A REGULAR OL' POOCH NOW!
STILL, I CAN'T GO LOOKING FOR HIM JUST YET--
-- NOT UNTIL I LET KNOW MOM KNOW I'M ALL RIGHT!
SAY... ISN'T HE--
NAHHH!

SO WHAT AM I WORRYING ABOUT?
SO WHAT IF KOJAK'S JUST A REGULAR DOG AGAIN?
EVEN REGULAR DOGS KNOW HOW TO FIND THEIR WAY HOME!
THEY'RE FAMOUS FOR IT!
HI, MOM!
GUESS WHO'S HOME!
DON'T YOU "HI, MOM!" ME...
SLAM
YOU'VE GOT SOME EXPLAINING TO DO, YOUNG MAN!
POOR JACK!
IF MY MASTER THINKS HE'S GOT SOME EXPLAINING TO DO NOW...
WAIT'LL HE TAKES A GOOD LOOK AT ME!
WHO LOVES YA BABY?

THEY WERE BOUND TO RETURN.

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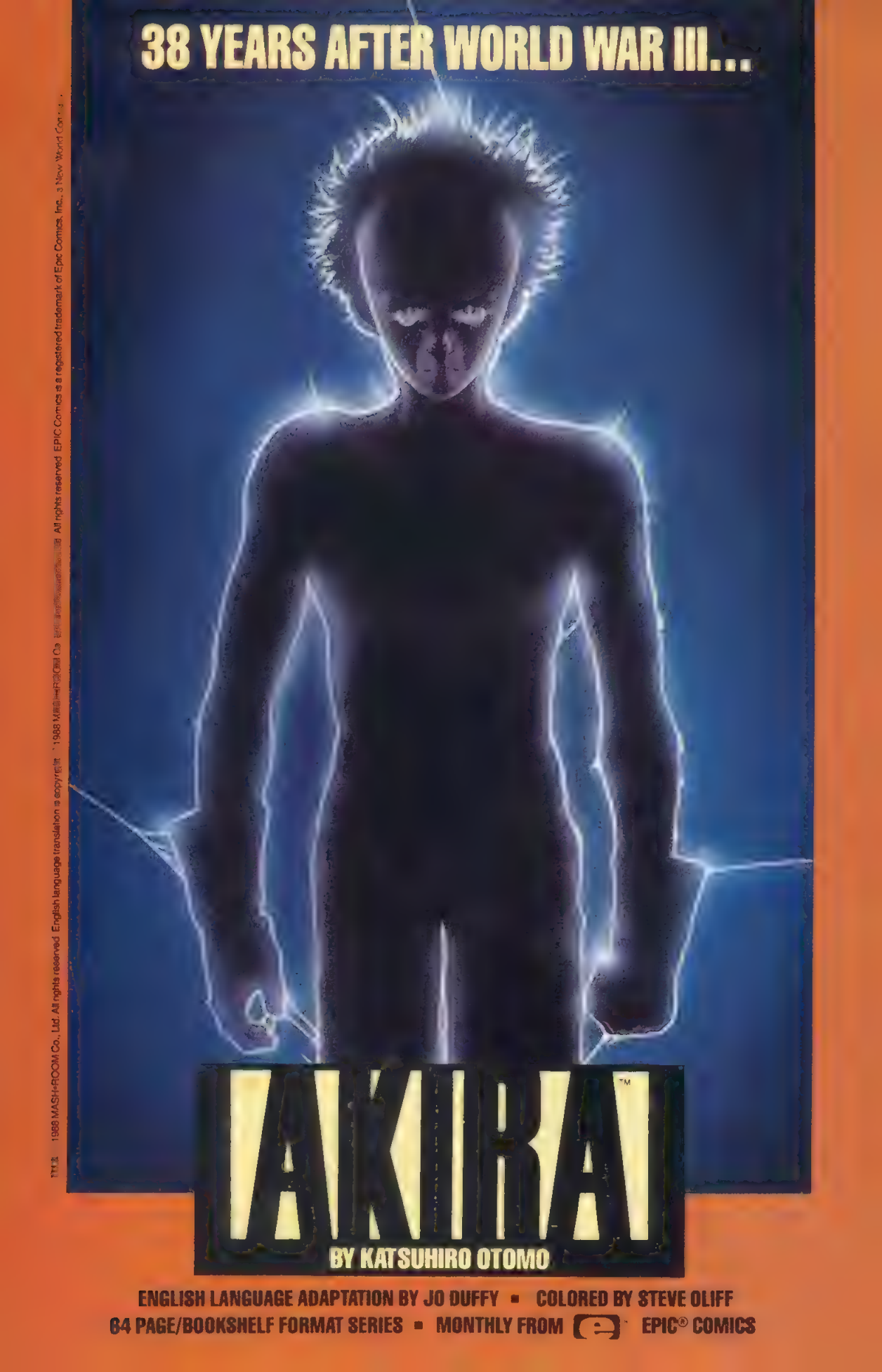

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Assassin

BY FRANK MILLER AND BILL SIENKIEWICZ

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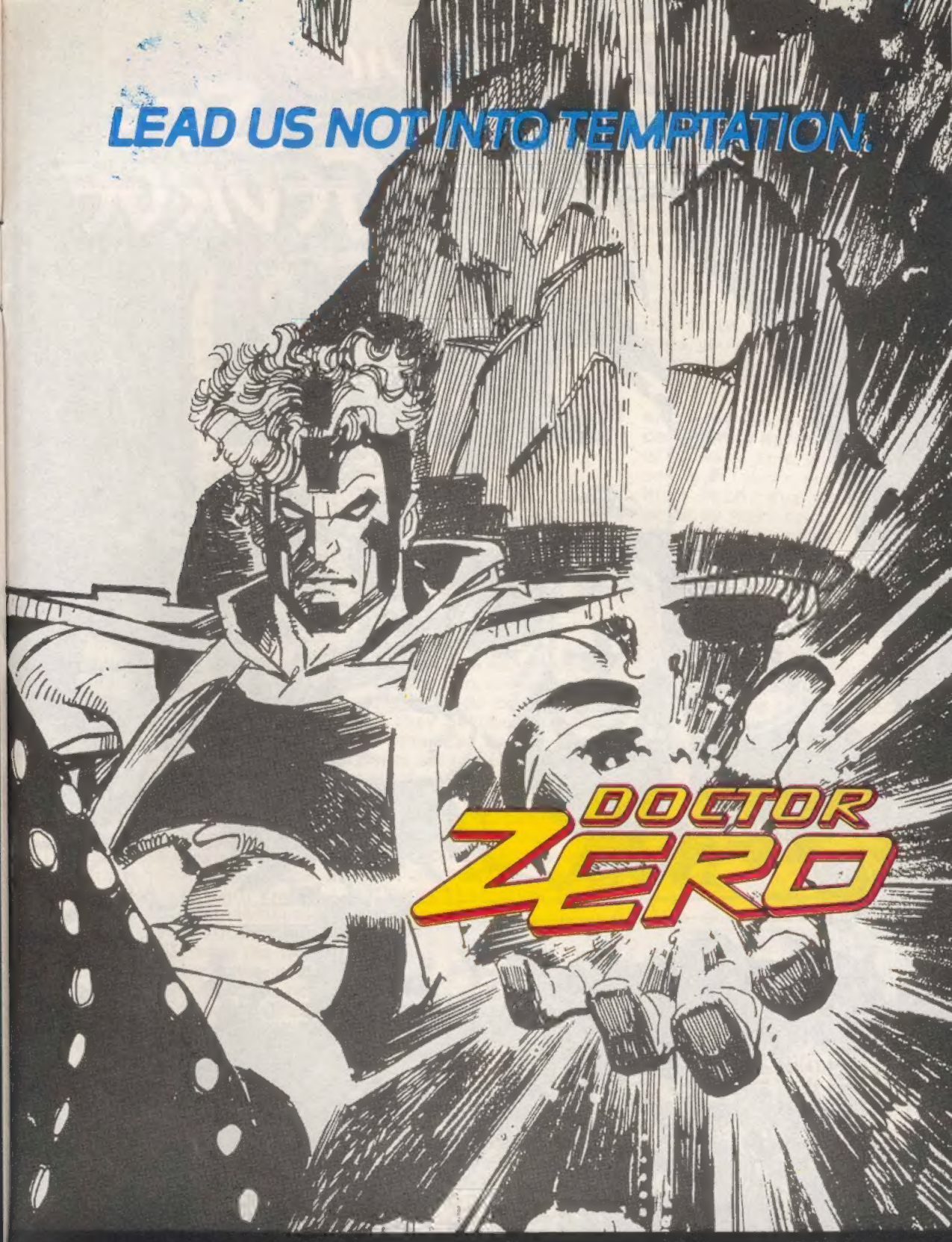

By D.G. Chichester,
Margaret Clark,
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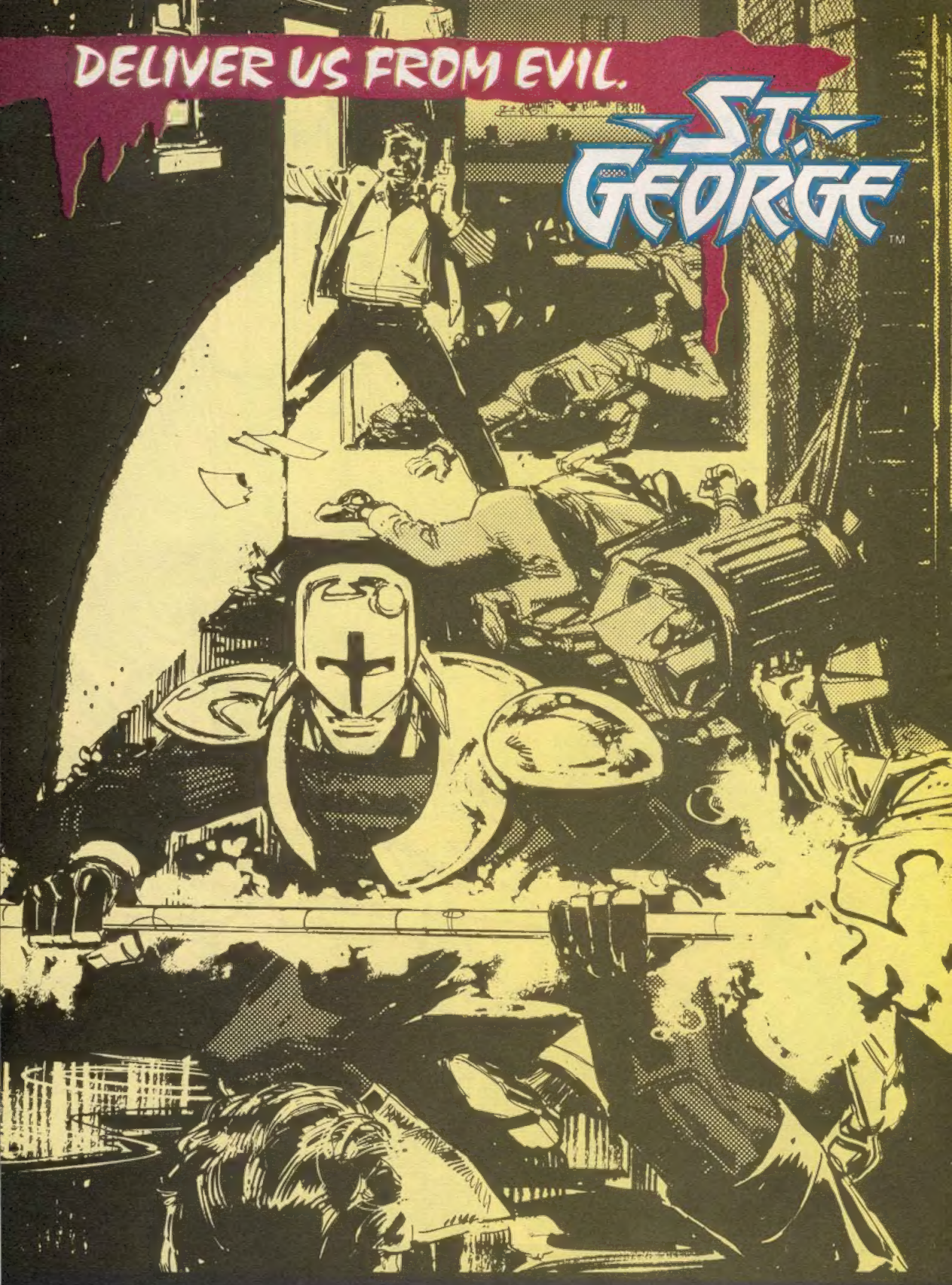

A SHADOWLINE SAGA™

Written by D.G. CHICHESTER & MARGARET CLARK

Art by KLAUS JANSON

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epic-grams

KNICKED BY THE CUTTING EDGE

I'm not too good with technology. To avoid losing fingers in Junior High shop class, I'd bribe someone else to cut out my napkin holder pieces on the jigsaw. In the army I found I coudn't put my M–1 rifle back together after field–stripping it. . .even without the blindfold. Today, I still have to call my wife, daughter, or son for help if the batteries need changing on my portable electronic typewriter. So, it's with a certain amount of shock that I look around as I'm writing this (end of May) and realize Epic is suddenly deep into technological breakthroughs.

THE IDES OF MAY

The most obvious breakthrough is the **Iron Man** graphic novel, **Crash**, from artist–writer **Mike Saenz**, working in partnership with programmer **Bill Bates**. Mike has done comics work utilizing computer–generated art before (**Shatter** from First Comics), but only in black and white (coloring had to be done by hand). With **Crash**, after a year of experimentation (and no little frustration), Mike and Bill have the first book—comic, graphic novel, or otherwise—to utilize not only such advances as fully rendered coloring and 3-D modeling by computer, but engraving as well. It's a virtual catalogue of state of the art techniques.

Just a week after **Crash** debuted, the first issue of **Akira** came out. This is our edition of artist–writer **Katsuhiro Otomo's** science-fiction adventure series that has been a trend-setting success in Japan. It's appearing in color for the first time anywhere. Otomo personally picked **Steve Oliff** to handle the coloring. To do justice to Otomo's precise and elaborate art, Steve decided to use a computer for the task, allowing a greater range of colors, tones, and rendering techniques. The black–and–white art is encoded on computer disks at the engravers, **Pixelcraft,** then sent to Steve for coloring. Steve's disks go back to the engraver to be separated into 4-color film for the printer. End result is new color, distinctive and rich, possible for the first time in an on–going book.

COMPUTER COMICS, RIP OFF OR HOAX?

The most obvious response to all this is probably: "Does it *really* make comics any better?" My answer—and the thing that led an old low tech freak like me into trying the computer approaches that Mike and Steve wanted to do —is that it *can*, depending of course on *who* does it and how they go about it. The computer can be a tool for comics just as pen and ink or, these days, paint can be. Not every comic should be done full painting, but I can't imagine a **Blood**, for instance, done any other way. The computer has much broader applications than other tools available for comics, some of which haven't even been discovered yet. But for coloring and engraving alone, you'll be seeing its use more and more. It's definitely a part of the future. With **Crash** and **Akira**, you've got a chance to check it out *now*.

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY RETRO

Okay. We're Epic. We're not only high falutin', now we're high tech. But doesn't *anybody* want to do plain ol' *comics* anymore? How about **Stan Lee** and **Jean "Moebius" Giraud**? When promotion for the **Moebius** graphic novel series appeared in **Marvel Age**, Giraud was so intrigued with the way his art reproduced on regular comics paper, he voiced interest in doing a project that way. Luckily he voiced it near Stan. So, this summer, they'll be teaming on **Parable**, a two issue **Silver Surfer** comic. Pulp paper. Hand–coloring. Low price. Hey. Technology's terrific, but there's nothing wrong with sticking to basics either.

—Archie Goodwin

checklist

JULY

AKIRA #3—While Kaneda is drawn deeper into the search for Akira, Tetsuo begins to manifest awesome and deadly psi-powers! "Number 41," by Katsuhiro Otomo. English translation by Jo Duffy. *For mature readers.*

GROO THE WANDERER #45—Groo is imprisoned and it's up to Rufferto to rescue him as only a canine can! By Sergio Aragonés with Mark Evanier.

POWER LINE#3—After witnessing the horrifying death of her mother, Lenore loses her will to live. Is *Doctor Zero* the only one who can save her . . .? "Every Purpose Under Heaven," written by D.G. Chichester & Margaret Clark, art by David Ross & Terry Austin.

VIDEO JACK #6—Jack & Damon's final battle for control of the video–realms! Brought to you by top talents: Carey Bates, Keith Giffen, Jim Starlin, Berni Wrightson, Walt Simonson, Steve Bissette, Kevin MacGuire, Fred Hembeck, Ernie Colon, Michael Gilbert, Dave Hunt & Neal Adams! Final issue! Do *not* miss it!

A man in search of reason...

THE INCAL 2™

JODOROWSKY • MOEBIUS

The science fiction masterpiece continues in volume two of a three Graphic Novel set. Monthly from Epic® Comics.

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EPIC COMICS